GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1426
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2010
FUNDS FOR TREATMENT OF BPL FAMILIES
Kataria Shri Lal Chand

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has created/proposed any fund to provide free medical facility to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the criteria fixed in this regard for fund allocation to States alongwith the quantum of funds allocated to each State during the last year and the current year?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) to (c): The Government of India has created Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) in 1997 to provide financial assistance to the patients, living below poverty line(BPL), who are suffering from major life threatening diseases, to receive medical treatment at any of the super specialty hospitals / institutes or other Govt. hospitals. The financial assistance to such patients is released in the form of 'one-time grant' to the Medical Superintendent of the hospital in which the treatment is being received.

Under the scheme of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi, the Central Govt. also provides Grant-in-Aid to the States / Union Territories with legislature for the State Illness Assistance Funds set up by them to the extent of 50 % of their contribution to the State Funds.

The contribution of the Central Govt. to the State Fund is subject to a maximum of Rs.5.00 crore to States with large number and percentage of population below the poverty line and maximum of Rs.2 crore to other States & UTs with legislatures, whichever is less in a year subject to overall availability of resources.

The Illness Assistance Fund at the State/UT level releases financial assistance to patients living in their respective States/UTs upto Rs. 1.5 lakh in an individual case and forward all such cases to RAN, where the quantum of financial assistance is likely to exceed Rs. 1.5 lakh.

The Grant-in-Aid is provided to the State Govts from time to time upon fulfilment of certain conditions, viz., submission of Utilization Certificates; list of beneficiaries indicating the illness and amount sanctioned in each case; Audit Report by the A.G. of the State Govt.; etc.

The Grant-in-Aid released to the States during the last financial year and current financial year so far,is given below :

Name of the State	Amount released (Rs. in lakh)	
	2008-09	2009-10
Punjab	4.75	-
Kerala	200.00	-
Uttar Pradesh	250.00	-

Sikkim 47.50 -

Goa 30.00 -

West Bengal - 215.56

Chhatisgarh - 187.50

Haryana - 25.00